

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13577 131817Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W
-----042659 140518Z /15

R 131812Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3049
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 13577

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD (BOWIE)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, UR, BTIO
SUBJECT: VISIT BY AT&T CHAIRMAN DEBUTTS

REF: (A) USDOC 9977 AND PREVIOUS, (B) MOSCOW 11306

1. AMERICAN TELEPHON & TELEGRAPH BOARD CHAIRMAN JOHN DEBUTTS, ACCOMPANIED BY THREE HIGH RANKING EXECUTIVES OF AT&T/WESTERN ELECTRIC FAMILY OF COMPANIES, VISITED MOSCOW JUNE 6-9. ON JUNE 7 AND 8, DEBUTTS MET WITH SOVIET MINISTERS OF COMMUNICATIONS (TALYZIN), OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY (PERVYSHIN), OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY (ANTONOV) AND OF FOREIGN TRADE (PATOLICHEV), AS WELL AS WITH DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (GVISHIANI). BOTH SOVIET AND AT&T DELEGATION TERMED VISIT HIGHLY USEFUL.

2. PRIMARY SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TELEPHONE SWITCHING PROJECT DESCRIBED MOSCOW 11306. ONE SENIOR SOVIET PARTICIPANT IN TALKS RESPONDED TO E/C COUNSELOR THAT PROJECT WAS IN CURRENT FIVE YEAR UNCLASSIFIED

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PLAN. ATT OFFICIAL SAID SOVIETS HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WANTED PROJECT REALIZED "THE SOONER THE BETTER." HE ACKNOWLEDGED POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIETS MIGHT SCALE DOWN THEIR LIST OF PURCHASES BUT GAVE NO DETAILS (WE UNDERSTAND THAT FIRST PHASE OF PROJECT IS VALUED AT UP TO \$500 MILLION). NEXT STEP APPARENTLY WILL BE FOR SOVIET DELEGATION AT LEVEL OF DEPUTY MINISTER

VISIT U.S. WITH ENTOURAGE OF SPECIALISTS, BUT NO DATE
WAS SET FOR THIS VISIT. MEANWHILE, SECONDARY AT&T/
WESTERN ELECTRIC OFFICIALS WILL FOLLOW UP HERE.

3. COMMENT: AT&T DELEGATION AND SOVIET MINISTRIES
INVOLVED CONTINUE TO PLAY CARDS CLOSE TO VEST. DE-
BUTTS GROUP DID NOT PROVIDE US WITH A DEBRIEFING ON
RESULTS OF VISIT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW, JUNE
9. AT&T OFFICIALS DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT FULL DETAILS
RE PURPOSE OF TRIP HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT
(EUR/SOV). IF THAT IS TRUE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
ANY DETAILS GOING BEYOND OR AT ODDS WITH MOSCOW REF-
TEL. END COMMENT. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW13577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-1044
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780665/aaaacefs.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8457498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 11306
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2374369
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT BY AT&T CHAIRMAN DEBUTTS
TAGS: BTRA, BTIO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8457498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014